Narrative Summary – May 2021

May 2021 was warmer than normal, averaging 64.5°F, 1.6° above normal (62.9°F). The warmest (1947 and 2018) averaged 68.7°F. The coolest (1984) averaged 56.0°F. There were no daily temperature records set in May 2021.

Precipitation for May 2021 totaled 0.01 inches, 2% of normal (0.61 inches). This makes May 2021 the second driest May on record. The wettest May (1972) received 2.03 inches, while the driest (1992 and earlier years) received only a trace. Total precipitation for 2021 (January through May) is 1.51 inches, 44% of normal (3.40 inches). Precipitation for the spring season (March through May) totaled 0.06 inches, 3% of normal (1.73 inches). This makes 2021 the driest spring on record. The previous record was 0.09" (1968).

The average wind speed for May 2021 was 10.7 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.9 mph above normal (8.8 mph). This ties for the windiest May, which also occurred in 1983. The May with the lightest winds (1957) averaged 5.8 mph. The peak gust for May 2021 was from the west at 57 mph on May 27. Also, on May 27 a cold front swept through creating strong winds and blowing dust throughout most of the day. The record wind gust for May was 71 mph in 1948.

May 2021 continued the trend of warm, dry, and windy weather. Sixteen of the past eighteen months have had above normal mean temperatures, nineteen of the past 20 months have had below normal precipitation, and fifteen of the past 17 months have had above normal wind speed.

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet.
Address: http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hms

Or contact:
HMS staff: 373-2716 hms@rl.gov
Grant Gutierrez: 581-8198 Grant_E_Gutierrez@rl.gov

Note: The data in this summary pertain specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.